

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Davis To Lead Hearing on Possible D.C. Crime Lab

What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing,
"CSI Washington: Does D.C. Need Its Own Crime Lab?"

When: Friday, September 22, 2006
10 a.m.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

The Committee on Government Reform will hold an oversight hearing to explore whether the District of Columbia needs its own crime lab.

Washington, D.C. has only limited forensic capabilities—it can process latent fingerprints and firearms. For everything else—trace evidence of other types, DNA processing, etc.—it relies on the FBI crime lab in Quantico, Va. Today, 30 percent of the Quantico lab's caseload comes from D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department.

Under an agreement reached in 2004, MPD employees work in the lab and process D.C. cases. The FBI provides training, lab space, equipment, quality assurance and supplies. This has reduced turnaround time somewhat for D.C. cases and by half for non-D.C. cases. But if D.C. had its own full-service lab, would evidence be processed faster?

This hearing will focus on whether D.C. needs its own lab, what would stand in the way of it getting one and what, if any, help the federal government can provide. It will address the financial, personnel and legal ramifications of the current arrangement and what can be done to reduce the time it takes to bring cases to trial.

WITNESSES

PANEL I

The Hon. Ken Wainstein (invited)

U.S. Attorney
The District of Columbia

Joseph A. DiZinno

Director
FBI Investigation Laboratory

Charles H. Ramsey

Chief of Police
Metropolitan Police Department

Edward D. Reiskin

D.C. Deputy Mayor
for Public Safety and Justice

PANEL II

Ms. Valencia Mohammed

Resident
District of Columbia